

# **Gateway Region Urban Sprawl: Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group**

**March 30, 2000**

## **MEETING NOTES**

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*The notes provided below document the main points and meeting progress that were offered during the meeting on March 30, 2000. The notes highlight and summarize the key topics and issues that were discussed at the meeting. Selected attachments are provided in this document.*

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On March 30, 2000, the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group (the "Group") convened at St. Mary's Hospital, Meeting Room A, in East St. Louis, Illinois. 39 participants were present, including five U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) representatives and three facilitation team members. A list of attendees is provided in Attachment A.

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Mr. Dale Brown, Planning and Management Consultants, Ltd. (PMCL) facilitation team, provided the Group with an introduction and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Brown started out by saying that the group had a full agenda and a lot of material to cover. The agenda is provided in Attachment B. He then went around the room and had each person present stand up and briefly introduce themselves by giving their name and affiliation, beginning with those who would be making presentations at the meeting. After the introductions, Mr. Brown informed the group that neither State Senator Maitland nor a representative from his office would be able to attend today's meeting due to the fact that the Legislature is in session, but Mr. Brown thanked Ms. Sarah Daniel for attending the meeting on behalf of State Senator Peter Fitzgerald's office.

Ms. Noemi Emeric, EPA Gateway Team Regional Manager, then introduced another guest, Mr. James Van der Kloot. Mr. Van der Kloot's specialty within EPA is in Sustainable Urban Environments. Ms. Emeric stated that prior to his current position, Mr. Van der Kloot worked on the EPA's brownfields program in Chicago, where he helped to make the program a success. Ms. Emeric then turned the floor over to Mr. Van der Kloot to provide opening remarks.

### **Opening Remarks**

Mr. Van der Kloot began his opening remarks by noting that approaches to solving environmental problems have changed significantly over the years. For the

previous 20 to 30 years, the emphasis was on targeting pollution produced at the “end of the pipe,” meaning smokestacks, automobile tailpipes, and discharge pipes (i.e., point source pollution). As a result, air quality and water quality have improved significantly because the worst discharges have been addressed. Now, however, we are left with environmental problems which are more intractable, such as urban decay and urban sprawl. Solutions to these problems must be more comprehensive and will require broad participation; the government alone can’t solve these problems simply by suing someone. As an example, he observed that 40 percent of state waters do not meet the requirements to be classified as “drinkable” or “fishable” waters. This is due in large part to development patterns over the years. Comprehensive approaches are extremely important for environmental protection in the future, which is why the work of groups such as the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group is so important.

After Mr. Van der Kloot’s opening remarks, Mr. Brown introduced Mr. Mike Beezhold, also of the PMCL facilitation team. Mr. Beezhold began his presentation by providing an overview of the two goals of the meeting. Attachment C is a copy of Mr. Beezhold’s presentation. The first goal is to review the progress and accomplishments of the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group over the past year. The second goal is to learn about the successes and operational strategies of the Campaign for Sensible Growth (the “Campaign”) in Northeastern Illinois.

Mr. Beezhold explained that the Group originally came together to take a holistic, regional look at the problems facing the Metro East area. The Group has accomplished much in the year and a half that it has been in existence, and today’s meeting will give the audience an opportunity to hear about these accomplishments from several members of the Group. Mr. Beezhold also noted that the audience will hear from Ms. Lois Morrison, Manager of the Campaign for Sensible Growth, who will discuss the challenges faced by the Campaign since it was formed.

## **Progress Review**

Mr. Beezhold continued his presentation by briefly outlining the evolution of the Group. The Group was formed to look at issues related to growth in three specific Illinois counties: Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair. There are a number of “buzzwords” related to growth, including “sustainable growth,” “livable communities,” “sensible growth,” “smart growth,” and “urban sprawl.” The group that originally met to examine these issues, the “Urban Sprawl Group,” is now known as the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group. This Group is a collaboration between Federal, state and local governments as well as local organizations, and the Group seeks a balanced approach between development and environmental interests. The Group first came together under the guidance of the EPA. Over time, a smaller yet representative group emerged to chart the direction of the Group. Unlike the related Stormwater Committee, which has a narrow focus, the Group has a broader focus and is looking at a variety of issues, of which stormwater is one. Once all of the Group’s participants have an understanding of where the Group is going, then the Group can carry out its objectives. Mr. Beezhold

explained that PMCL has been assisting EPA with coordinating the Group's meetings through project management, facilitation and note-taking. These meetings run four hours in length and typically include a mix of presentations, guided discussions, group decision-making and a progress review. Thus far, the Group's strategy has been to identify the relevant issues, develop a mission statement (or "charge") for the Group, establish a means to accomplish its mission (which includes the cornerstones and respective action items), and finally to implement the strategy for accomplishing its goals. After Mr. Beezhold's presentation, Mr. Brown introduced the Group presenters who would be speaking on the topics of the Group's mission, its three cornerstones (Planning, Education, and the Illinois Growth Task Force), the vision brochure, and Stormwater Committee progress.

### **Mission**

The first speaker was Mr. Ted Shekell, City of O'Fallon planning department, who spoke about the overall mission of the Group. Mr. Shekell began by stating the Group's mission to the audience:

"The Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group comprises local state and federal organizations. Its mission is to gather, develop, and disseminate information regarding growth issues in the Metro East, Illinois area."

He described the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group as a loosely-organized group with one major concern, i.e., how growth takes place in Metro East. Although most in the room might agree that growth is a good thing, it can have a negative connotation when growth is described as "urban sprawl." Without growth, however, an area is likely to become stagnant or decline. Development should not be a conflict-based activity; it should be beneficial to all parties involved. Furthermore, growth will take place whether we want it to or not, and too often there is a lack of communication among those involved. Mr. Shekell stated that sustainable growth is not "rocket science." Rather, it simply requires people to get together and talk to one another to reach mutual solutions. Finally, Mr. Shekell said that the Group is not actually a planning group; its purpose is simply to make people aware of the issues and get people to discuss them.

After Mr. Shekell finished speaking, Mr. Beezhold took a moment to review the three cornerstones with the audience before introducing the next speaker. Mr. Beezhold stated that there is some overlap among the three cornerstones, and that the Group will need funding in order to provide educational outreach programs to the community. Mr. Beezhold then introduced Mr. Jerry Rombach of the Illinois Homebuilders Association (HBA), who spoke about the Planning cornerstone.

### **Planning Cornerstone**

Mr. Rombach began by explaining that he was new to the Group and to his

position with the Illinois Homebuilders Association, and therefore had only been to one previous meeting. He said that although he is new to the area, he is not unfamiliar with the issues. In fact, the issues facing the Group have been around for a long time. Mr. Rombach joked that a recent archaeological dig had uncovered ancient pottery fragments that read in part "...it is too hot here in the summer..." and "...whenever it rains our village is flooded..." He went on to say that the Group would like to have local planning commissions provide copies of their master plans and other public planning documents for the Group to analyze. Gathering and analyzing these plans will require the collective efforts of the entire Group. In addition, the Group should look at examples of development from other communities in order to learn from their experiences. Some of the materials may be hard to come by, but in general, there is a lot of material out there for the Group to look at. Mr. Rombach requested that the audience members ask themselves what makes a good development plan and then lend their assistance with gathering and grading development plans. Ultimately, the Group would like to develop a regional model for growth which balances development and the environment. After Mr. Rombach had finished, Mr. Tim Feather, PMCL facilitation team, added that these goals will not be achieved overnight. To date, the Group does not have development plans in hand, nor has it established a system of grading the plans once they are provided. Also, the group is not made up of professional planners; instead, Group members will have to educate themselves about the issues and techniques to address the issues.

### **Education Cornerstone**

Mr. Beezhold then introduced Ms. Kathy Andria of the East St. Louis Conservation Alliance (ESL-CAN), who spoke about the Education cornerstone. Ms. Andria noted that the organization she represents has been working on environmental issues for the past ten years, particularly on the issue of flooding, which she believes has been getting worse. Ms. Andria reported that she attended a recent meeting of the St. Clair County Board's environment committee, where someone observed that flooding in an unspecified area of Metro East seems to be worse now since two housing developments were built. Ms. Andria then explained that she was still recovering from the flu and turned the floor over to Ms. Emeric to finish the Education cornerstone presentation. Ms. Emeric then explained to the members of the audience that they were here to educate the Group as much as the Group was here to educate them. She emphasized the need to collaborate with a wide variety of groups in order to reach comprehensive solutions. Ms. Emeric said it would be beneficial to have people from other cities speak to the Group regarding what they had learned, and she again appealed to the audience to share their expertise and continue to participate in the Group's activities.

### **Vision Brochure**

The next presenter was Mr. Shekell again, who spoke about the Vision Brochure recently developed by the Group (Attachment D). Mr. Shekell began by briefly walking the group through the brochure. First, the brochure asks the question, "Why do we have

to manage our resources?” Mr. Shekell said that a preceding question might be, “Do we need to manage our resources?” If so, then we can ask why we need to manage them. Mr. Shekell went on to say that “sustainable growth” is a popular term, but not everybody likes it. Some think that it is not a valid concept, but Mr. Shekell believes that it is valid. But what does the term mean? Mr. Shekell mused that sustainable growth, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. Mr. Shekell then explained the Group’s goals with respect to the vision brochure. These goals include introducing the Metro East issues to the public, introducing the Group and its goals to the public, soliciting participation, and using the brochure as an educational outreach tool. Mr. Shekell stated that all of these goals are like “motherhood and apple pie” in that they are hard to disagree with, and that the Group needs people to educate themselves about these issues if the Group is to be successful. He also said that growth affects us all and therefore these issues affect us all. Finally, Mr. Shekell implored the members of the audience to encourage those people who have strong opinions on these issues to come to the Group’s meetings.

Mr. Brown added that additional copies of the brochure for public distribution are available from the Group or can be produced by EPA.

### **Illinois Growth Task Force Cornerstone**

Mr. Brown then introduced Mr. Edward Weilbacher of the Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D), who spoke about the Group’s third cornerstone. Mr. Weilbacher began by explaining that the group he represents (RC&D) is very interested in sustainable growth. RC&D covers a seven county area and has been in existence for ten years. Mr. Weilbacher then reminded everyone that State Representative Ricca Slone had addressed the Group previously regarding sustainable growth and the Illinois Growth Task Force. He noted that many other states have passed laws relating to the issues of open spaces and urban sprawl, but Illinois had not. For a while, it seemed as if the public in Illinois was interested but the elected representatives were not. However, after a number of legislators lost recent elections over these issues, the current members of the State House and Senate decided to re-examine these issues.

These representatives formed a joint commission, known as the Illinois Growth Task Force (the “Task Force”), headed by State Senator Maitland, to address issues related to growth in both urban and rural areas. The Task Force is composed of six senators (three Democrats and three Republicans) and six representatives (also three Democrats and three Republicans). There are also twelve public representatives on the Task Force. State Representative Wyvetter Younge was instrumental in getting the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group on the Task Force as one of the public representatives. Otherwise, there would not have been a public representative from Southern Illinois.

The first goal of the Task Force is to study the issues. It has held three meetings to date, all of them in Springfield, Illinois. Three working groups have been formed to

address (1) land use and transportation, (2) state policies including incentives for and against growth, and (3) farmland/natural resource preservation and water issues, including stormwater. Mr. Edward Weilbacher will represent the Group at all meetings of the Task Force's specific working group on farmland/natural resource preservation and water issues. Although stormwater is an important issue in the Metro East area, it is a less important issue statewide; traffic seems to be the most important growth issue across the state, particularly in the Chicago area. The working group on natural resource preservation and water will meet in late April and will be chaired by Ms. Ann Hughes, who is currently with the Illinois Farm Bureau. The next meeting of the entire Task Force will be on May 31, after which will be a series of regional hearings: June 15 in Bloomington, Il.; July 6 in Des Plaines, Il.; and July 25 in Collinsville, Il. The Task Force will also invite speakers from other states which have already addressed many of the issues facing Illinois. The ultimate goal of the Task Force is to draft comprehensive legislation to address issues such as open spaces, transportation, energy, and the subsidization of utility service extensions to areas of new development.

An audience member commented that there is enough existing infrastructure in the city of St. Louis to support many more people than currently live there, so we need to look more closely at our use of existing infrastructure resources. Mr. Weilbacher agreed, noting that many developers believe it is cheaper to develop "greenfields" (i.e., raw undeveloped land) than to build in areas with existing infrastructure, so we do need to look at this problem.

### **Stormwater**

Mr. Beezhold then introduced Mr. Richard Worthen, who is a member of the Metro East Regional Stormwater Committee. Mr. Worthen explained that the Stormwater Committee is a regional, ad hoc committee with no authority and no funding. He described stormwater not as the problem itself, but rather as being a symptom of a much larger problem. He said that the real issue behind stormwater (i.e., impervious surfaces) needs to be addressed.

Mr. Worthen stated that the Stormwater Committee has been in place for a number of years, and over that time there has been some progress on the issue of stormwater in Metro East. For example, the U. S. Department of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conducted a multimillion-dollar cleanout of storm ditches in the area, and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is currently conducting a \$2 million Interior Flood Control Project that should be completed by September, which will offer solutions to the area's flooding problems. He noted that EPA in particular has helped the Stormwater Committee with its stormwater framework goals. Mr. Worthen explained that the Stormwater Committee includes representatives from Madison, St. Clair and Monroe Counties. Various government agencies have been involved with the different aspects of flooding, including NRCS, EPA, USACE, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Office of Water Resources, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Each of these government agencies brings its own

particular expertise to bear on the problem.

Mr. Worthen reiterated that stormwater problems are really just symptoms; flooding is a concept that has been around forever, and the problem lies in how we distinguish natural flooding from non-natural flooding. Because human activity impacts the environment, we create flooding conditions and therefore view flooding as a negative factor. Flooding has an impact on water quantity and water quality as well. Mr. Worthen went on to say that if we as a culture decide to solve the problems of flooding, we can do it if we stick to a framework. Mr. Worthen then laid out the framework as developed by the Stormwater Committee:

1. Obtain legal authority/structure to address the problem;
2. Obtain funding to address the problems, particularly in the form of a stormwater utility fee (which Mr. Worthen says is currently illegal in Illinois);
3. Implement Phase II regulations;
4. Develop a comprehensive plan;
5. Initiate an outreach and education effort.

Mr. Worthen concluded his presentation by saying that society has declared that impervious surfaces can exist, and ultimately we are going to pay for the effects of this decision. Mr. Worthen was asked if there is an alternative to impervious surfaces, and he responded that we already have many building techniques that provide pervious surfaces. As an example, he cited the parking lot at the St. Louis botanical gardens.

### **Campaign for Sensible Growth**

After a short break, Mr. Brown reconvened the group and asked those who arrived to the meeting late to introduce themselves to the rest of the audience. Ms. Emeric then thanked the presenters for taking the time to present to the Group, and thanked Mr. Weilbacher in particular for attending the Task Force meetings on the Group's behalf. She also noted that none of them receive any compensation from the Group for their efforts. Mr. Beezhold then introduced the featured speaker, Ms. Lois Morrison, Manager of the Campaign for Sensible Growth (the "Campaign"). Prior to working for the Campaign, she worked for the Council of Great Lakes Governors from 1995 to 1998. She also gained experience as a member of the President's Council on Sustainable Growth, where she worked on two committees dealing with agricultural and natural resource issues. Attachment E is a copy of Ms. Morrison's presentation, with a summary provided below.

Ms. Morrison began by observing that the success of the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group in turn makes other groups such as hers successful as well. She then explained that she would describe the origins, purpose, and challenges of the Campaign, as well as some of the lessons that the organization has learned over the past few years.

Ms. Morrison has managed the Campaign for the past two years, and said that they have been working non-stop during that time. She agreed with Mr. Rombach's previous remark that the issues related to growth are not new and will be with us for a long time. She described the Campaign's area of focus as six counties in Northeastern Illinois (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will), which are growing faster than ever before. Population growth in the Chicago area is currently exceeding the official projections. The Campaign's desire is to see growth occur evenly, without leaving any areas or populations behind. As a result of the number of governmental authorities at multiple levels, development patterns are quite uncoordinated. Chicago is seeing the results of uncoordinated growth in the form of traffic congestion, increasing infrastructure costs, job/housing mismatch, and loss of open spaces. She urged the audience to look at these issues in their own communities and back up their findings with research.

Ms. Morrison then spoke about open spaces in particular. She said that many of the current open spaces in Northeastern Illinois are projected to be developed over the next 10-30 years. Open space is a particularly good issue to focus on, because it is a natural link to other social and environmental issues, and the public seems to identify with the issue. People identify open spaces with their sense of place. She also noted that the increasing development of open spaces is a trend across the state as well, so the issue is not confined to Chicago alone. Mr. Feather asked how long it took to create the open spaces development map referred to in her presentation, and Ms. Morrison answered that it took a group of people about two years to put it together.

Ms. Morrison observed that the issues faced in the Chicago region are complex and interdisciplinary, so the solutions naturally must involve many groups. Before the Campaign was created, no single group in the area was pulling all of the pieces together to come up with solutions, nor were any groups providing comprehensive education to the public about the area's growth issues. This need directly inspired the formation of the Campaign for Sensible Growth. Ms. Morrison was asked if the Campaign also looked at areas in Wisconsin or Indiana that are adjacent to Northeastern Illinois, and she said no. She explained that the six counties in the Chicago region are so large and complex that at this time the Campaign is just focused on them. Eventually, the Campaign may look at the adjacent regions as well.

While the Campaign came together around people with similar interests, the Campaign members realized that if they were to be successful they would have to include representatives of all stakeholders in the region. Ms. Morrison said the Campaign has been very successful in actively recruiting a diverse membership. The Campaign strives for geographic diversity as well as a diversity of interests among the members. There are several roles within the Campaign. Ms. Morrison explained that in addition to a Steering Committee, there are regional representatives from each of the six counties in Northeastern Illinois. These representatives do not have to attend Campaign meetings, but they function as the Campaign's "eyes and ears" in their respective counties. The Campaign comprises over 80 private and public entities among its member. In addition, the Campaign has a technical and an environmental Working Group.



Next, Ms. Morrison discussed how the Campaign was funded. Originally, the Campaign sought a Challenge Grant from EPA. Although they did not obtain a grant from EPA, they took their grant proposal to other sources, and ultimately won funding from several local sources in Chicago. The Campaign also developed its own logo and a guidebook, which has proven to be very popular. Ms. Morrison said that these steps are very important for a fledgling group. They also created a brochure and distributed it at every opportunity they had. While they have many individual members, the Campaign only includes entities on its public membership list. Ms. Morrison noted that in the last race for Governor of Illinois, the Campaign invited both candidates (George Ryan and Glenn Poshard) to address the Campaign and describe their own visions of sustainable growth in Illinois. She said that both candidates brushed up on the issues and each articulated some very good ideas. She also noted that Governor Ryan's statements to the Campaign can be used to "keep him accountable" for his actions.

Regarding the governance of the Campaign, Ms. Morrison noted that they wanted to avoid becoming too bureaucratic. However, the Campaign did feel it was necessary to create a governance document which defines the rules for their group, including how and who can make decisions, who can use the logo, and how to respond to the media. The Campaign also wrote down its goals to define what it stands for and how best to achieve those goals. Ms. Morrison described the goals of the group as follows:

- Strengthen the region's economic competitiveness;
- Revitalize and support existing communities;
- Promote new development that is walkable, transit-friendly, and preserves natural areas.

In order to achieve these goals, the Campaign relies on two guiding principles. First, land use decisions should always be made at the local level. Second, promote consensus-based approaches as opposed to regulatory-based approaches.

Ms. Morrison then explained the importance of having a work plan. In 1998, the Campaign was not actually working in an organized manner; rather, the year was spent just forming the group. Although a Steering Committee was formed to do much of the work, each and every member of the Campaign was expected to contribute something to the group in terms of knowledge and/or resources. In 1999, the Campaign's first work plan was developed. Ms. Morrison then listed the four items in the work plan: Public Information, Technical Assistance, Research, and Policy Change.

Next, Ms. Morrison gave examples of the products created by the Campaign in 1999, such as a newsletter, a membership program, and sponsoring or co-sponsoring numerous public events, including their own workshops and a conference. Copies of the materials Ms. Morrison provided to the audience are included as Attachment F. Mr. Beezhold added that the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group is mentioned

in the Campaign's January 2000 newsletter. Another success for the Campaign in 1999 was participation on the Illinois Growth Task Force. It is important for a group to keep track of what she termed "performance indicators," such as the group's accomplishments and successes, because potential funders always want to know what a group has accomplished.

Ms. Morrison noted that all solutions reached by the Campaign will be specific to the Chicago area, but the ideas behind those solutions will come from all over the country. Although the Campaign itself has no authority, it does have a lot of influence in Chicago, according to Ms. Morrison. The Campaign's work plan for 2000 includes the following items:

- Protect open space
- Improve water quality
- Coordinate transportation with development and redevelopment
- Expand housing options and economic strategies
- Coordinate and expand state support to local communities.

Ms. Morrison closed her talk by discussing the lessons that the Campaign had learned over the previous two years. First of all, it takes a lot of work to bring people together into a cohesive group. It requires a shared vision and common objectives. It is essential to include stakeholder representatives across different sectors, so that there is something in it for all participants. It is also a time-consuming process, so it is essential to be committed for the long run. The Campaign's members are all committed for the long-term, but the Steering Committee tries to develop short-term, achievable goals for the members, which she referred to as the "low-hanging fruit." It is important to have a clear process by which decisions are made, and that people understand their roles and responsibilities to the group. She also noted that it is important to give credit where credit is due, and that building a track record will create trust among diverse stakeholders. Ms. Morrison presented a list of the pros and cons of building coalitions from her experience. The pros of creating partnerships with other entities include gaining credibility, breadth and depth for the group; creating synergies; sustainable solutions; and enhanced fundraising ability. The cons as she saw them were that the process is very time-consuming, cumbersome, and requires compromise.

Ms. Morrison noted that there is a great deal of momentum right now for addressing growth-related issues. The strong economy and rising public awareness mean that right now we have a great window of opportunity to implement change. Ms. Morrison's final message to the audience was to say that "You can do it!" and she reiterated that the Group's successes in Metro East can and will have a positive impact on the Campaign's activities in Northeastern Illinois.

Several questions were posed by the audience after Ms. Morrison's talk.

Q: How important is funding?

A: Funding is critical for the viability of the Campaign. Working in a partnership with other entities or government agencies can be very helpful toward securing funding. Currently, the Campaign receives funding from several regional sources in Chicago, including private, non-profit foundations.

Q: How is the Campaign organized?

A: The Campaign is not its own entity; rather, it is organized under the Metropolitan Planning Council.

Q: What does having a logo mean for a group?

A: A logo is important for a sense of identity, but the Campaign's logo doesn't really portray the issues in the Chicago area. However, a member of the panel suggested that it is important for the logo to portray the issues the group is addressing.

Additional comments: One member of the audience noted that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are becoming more prevalent, and they have more money than ever before. Money is available if one looks for it. Ms. Emeric added that the Greater St. Louis Lead Coalition is a great example of a local group getting funding for their work. They received \$150,000. The EPA can always lend assistance with grant writing. However, she advised the Group to look for private funding first, because it is much more flexible than government funding, and government funding is very project-oriented.

## **Final Business**

Mr. Beezhold thanked Ms. Morrison for coming down to address the Group, particularly because she came to speak at her own expense. Mr. Beezhold went on to say that the Group is gaining momentum in its efforts. The Group now needs to create a specific work plan to define its activities, and the Group should take advantage of the favorable climate for change that Ms. Morrison referred to. Mr. Beezhold announced that the next Group meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room A of St. Mary's Hospital. [Due to a scheduling conflict, the date of the next meeting has subsequently been changed to May 9.] The goals of the next meeting are to refine and define the future activities associated with each cornerstone, and to prepare for the Illinois Growth Task Force public hearing in Metro East on July 25, 2000.

Mr. Beezhold then passed out an index card (see Attachment F) to each member of the audience, and asked everyone to fill in the required information and indicate with the numbers one, two and three which cornerstone the participant or the participant's organization would most like to get involved in (with "one" being the first choice, "two" the second choice, etc.). The cards were then returned to the PMCL facilitators. The results will help the Group to allocate the resources and interests of the members most effectively. Mr. Feather then made an appeal to the audience members to attend the next Group meeting, explaining that the Group needs to formalize its membership. Also, the Group needs all of the "horsepower" it can gather in the form of additional support and

expertise.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

In closing, Mr. Beezhold announced that the minutes of the meeting would be posted on the EPA website, which should be back online soon (if it is not already). PMCL will send an e-mail notification to attendees when the minutes have been posted online.

Ms. Emeric added that the upcoming Task Force public hearing on July 25 will provide a great opportunity to give testimony to the senators and representatives who will be there. It is important to let them know about the problems in Metro East, and that there is a local coalition that is interested in addressing these problems. Ms. Morrison then added that the Task Force will only hold three public hearings, and Senator Maitland has indicated that the Task Force will take the results of these hearings very seriously. Ms. Emeric offered that EPA would be willing to provide administrative support for any members of the Group interested in distributing brochures or making a presentation at the public hearing.

Ms. Andria announced that Mr. Sandy Schultz, a local artist and self-described visionary, would be giving a presentation on his ideas for sustainable communities at 9:00 a.m. on March 31 at the Cahokia Mounds. Mr. Beezhold then thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting was adjourned.